



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004
HB4190

Introduced 1/23/2004, by Marlow H. Colvin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Good Samaritan Initiative Act. Requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to adopt a rule that allows for the reconnection of low-income Illinois residents to their gas and electric utility services. Effective immediately.

LRB093 15950 AMC 41573 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public utilities.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Good
5 Samaritan Initiative Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds and
7 declares the following:

8 (1) During the winter heating season some low-income
9 Illinois citizens, because of limited financial resources,
10 have had their gas or electric service disconnected because
11 they are unable to pay their bills and who, because of
12 arrearages, have been unable to have these services
13 restored.

14 (2) The Illinois Commerce Commission has a
15 responsibility to protect the public's health and welfare.

16 (3) Too many low-income Illinois citizens enter each
17 winter without utility service.

18 (4) This constitutes a continuing emergency.

19 Section 10. Good Samaritan Initiative. The Illinois
20 Commerce Commission shall, after notice and opportunity for
21 hearing, adopt a rule that allows for the reconnection of
22 low-income Illinois residents to their gas and electric utility
23 services. The rule shall, at a minimum, contain all of the
24 following:

25 (1) Reconnection pursuant to rule shall be limited to
26 residential natural gas or electric utility customers who
27 have arrearages and who are LIHEAP eligible.

28 (2) Except as otherwise stated, all natural gas and
29 electric utilities regulated by the Commission shall
30 reconnect any residential natural gas or electric utility
31 customers who have arrearage and who are LIHEAP eligible if

1 they pay the relevant utility a reconnection charge of no
2 more than \$250. The \$250 includes any security deposit a
3 utility may require.

4 (3) Residential natural gas or electric utility
5 customers who have had their gas or electric service
6 disconnected for a fraudulent practice shall have that
7 service reconnected upon the payment for the amount of
8 service obtained fraudulently plus any tariffed
9 investigation fee and a reconnection charge of no more than
10 \$250. The \$250 includes any security deposit a utility may
11 require.

12 (4) All natural gas and electric utilities regulated by
13 the Commission shall be subject to the reconnection rule
14 from December 1 to March 31.

15 (5) Any reconnection pursuant to this rule must take
16 place within 2 calendar days of payment of the reconnection
17 charge.

18 (6) Funds for payment of the reconnection charge
19 authorized by items (2) and (3) may come in whole or in
20 part from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program or
21 other energy assistance program.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law.